

Remark

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1 and 28 have been amended. Claims 10, 16-27 and 32 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-9, 11-15, 28-31, 33-42 are present for examination.

Claims to Non-elected Species

The Examiner has indicated that Applicant's previous response is not responsive on the grounds that the amendments to Claim 1 render it as directed to the non-elected species of Figures 6-8, rather than to the species of Figure 3.

Figure 3 shows a cable 310 attached to a socket frame 306 using a cable connector 308. The Figure 3 representation of item 308 is generalized to a rectangle between the cable and the socket grid 304. The written description of the cable connector 308 provides no detail except by way of example in paragraphs 29 and 30. These paragraphs refer to Figure 4. The complete description of cable connector 308 is as follows:

"The socket insertion technique 400 illustrates the cable 310 being inserted into the cable connector 308 (which is in turn pivotally attached to the socket frame 306. In one embodiment of the present invention, once the cable 310 is fully inserted into the cable connector 308, the cable connector 308 (or its latch) is pivoted in a downwardly direction to engage and/or lock in the cable 301. "

"In a further embodiment of the present invention, the socket frame 306 (e.g., the base and cover above) are formed to allow for a section with independent contacts and/or a closeable latching lid that holds the cable against the contacts (e.g., 308)."

Figures 6-8 are not described with the "cable connector" terminology. Instead there is a cable receptacle 610 with guides 604, and contact prongs 608 coupled to an actuator lever 606. (The actuator lever 606 is not related to the actuation lever 302 of Figures 3 and 9.) As shown in Figures 6A and B, the actuator lever is open to receive a cable and then in Figures 7A and B and

8A and B, the actuator lever is pivoted downwardly to engage and lock the cable into position. As stated in paragraph 38, "the actuator lever 606 is pivotally attached to the integrated socket 506." In paragraph 40, "Figure 8A illustrates locking tabs 802 to lock in the actuator lever 606 while in the closed position."

Based on this description, Applicants respectfully submit that the cable connector in Figure 3 is a generalized version of the cable connector of Figures 6-8. The description and illustration of Figure 3 are completely consistent with the description and illustration of Figures 6-8.

In addition, in making the election of the species of Figure 3, Applicants fully intended to elect the general case and so stated in the response filed April 4, 2004.

Applicants respectfully submit that by adding features of Figures 6-8 to the currently pending claims, Applicants did not change the claims from reading on one species to reading on another, but instead the Applicants added elements to a more general claim to render the claim less general. The originally filed claims read on Figure 3 just as much as on Figures 6-8 and 9. The amended claims still read on Figure 3 but recite elements not specifically shown in that Figure.

35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 Rejections

The Examiner has earlier rejected various claims as anticipated or obvious. The claims are amended above to further clarify the distinctions from the cited references.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

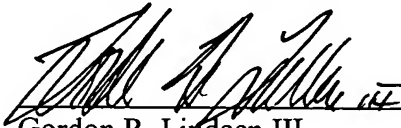
Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for a one month extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension. Charge our Deposit Account.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 4/5/5


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